



Clean Energy Future Committee

Date: June 30, 2023

Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Remote Meeting

Minutes

Attendance:

- Members: Aimee Graeber (welcome to the CEFC, has been confirmed by the Selectboard), Amos Meeks, James DiTullio, Jim Feeney, John Alessi, Marc Breslow, Nellie Aikenhead (left at 8:45am), Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein, Talia Fox
- Members Absent: David Morgan, Eric Helmuth
- Also attending: Brucie Moulton, Eugene Benson, Patrick Hanlon

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am.

1. Virtual Meeting Reminders

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times.
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday.
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to the next meeting.

2. Review and Approve 5/26/2023 Meeting Minutes

- CEFC reviewed the draft minutes from the May 26, 2023, meeting and approved with a voice vote.

3. Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Pilot (FFF) Updates

- P. Hanlon: Legislature is discussing expanding the FFF program from the 10 pilot municipalities to all communities, including Boston, Somerville, Salem, and North Hampton, all of whom are much more diverse than the 10 communities in the pilot, and all of whom are on the waiting list.
- Home Builders Association released a report that purports to show that implementation of the FFF, Stretch Code, and Specialized Stretch are going to price people out of the housing market. This may affect the effort to expand the FFF program and could hamper communities' ability to pass the Specialized Stretch in the fall.
- Anybody who wishes to testify to expand the FFF program is able to do that. The bill is working its way through the Legislature. There will be compromises, and the outcome is hard to predict. There is a rumor that

Arlington is going to drop out, presumably because it can't meet the housing requirement.

- T. Fox: The MBTA communities process is moving full steam ahead and there will be more opportunities for people to engage in the discussions. There is also a written feedback form for people who could not attend the June 8th meeting.
- P. Hanlon: The CEFC should be thinking about which exemptions to allow in the FFF bylaw. Some of these are clear and straightforward and some involve more significant policy changes. One of the major issues will be whether to maintain the exemption for domestic gas stoves that is in our original bylaw.
- People who want more information and opinions on the health implications of gas stoves can reach out to the Arlington Board of Health and perhaps Andee Krasner at the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility.

4. Sustainability Updates

- MBTA Communities is a very important process and critical to the success of the CEFC. Jennifer Susse is looking for a CEFC member to be a main point of contact with Sustainable Arlington as Fall Town Meeting approaches. Amos Meeks volunteered.
- We are making progress with Electrify Arlington. We have hired a part-time energy advocate to lead outreach efforts for heat pump adoption and to expand the campaign into environmental justice communities, for example by reaching out to landlords, older residents, and lower income residents. "Door knocking" outreach is being considered, but would have to be carefully implemented. The Town has also signed an MOU with HomeWorks Energy, and will get a lot of extra support from them.
- The Town is exploring solar projects at DPW and at the new high school.

5. NZAP Working Group Breakout Discussion – 25 minutes

- Transportation (J. Alessi, J. DiTullio, S. Dein) and Building (A. Meeks, P. Miettinen, M. Breslow, P. Hanlon, N. Aikenhead). Energy (D. Morgan and R. Katofsky) not meeting today. T. Fox will bounce between the groups.

Buildings Subgroup Minutes

- Main topics over time: 1) gas stoves; 2) anything that will come up in the next 6-12 months that we need to be on top of; and 3) adjustments needed, if any, to the NZAP priorities list.
- The various initiatives currently underway regarding embodied carbon might be an important topic for the group. For example, the state legislature is discussing making embodied carbon a consideration in procurement process(es). It could also be made part of the Town permitting process and/or become a component in the Specialized Stretch code. Not all group members were in agreement about whether this is a positive initiative; some are concerned that embodied carbon is an excuse to stop new development and require re-use of existing buildings, which may be less energy efficient.
- Another discussion item centered on the best timing for upgrading gas heating systems to electric. Senator Will Brownsberger is one influential person conveying the message that if there is a well-functioning gas heating system, it may make sense to wait for the next generation of heat pumps

before replacing the system. Currently systems contain a potentially hazardous coolant, that is being reviewed, and may possibly be banned, by the EPA.

- The group also reviewed the process for determining the final language in the FFF bylaw (for example, will gas stoves be prohibited or allowed). Just as with other TM articles, the first step is to draft a “notice” warrant article, which will not include all the details, and from there, the Selectboard will determine the language for the “main motion”. The CEFC has an important role to play in making recommendations, especially on optional issues, to the Selectboard before the main motion is drafted. Ultimately, the main motion will go to TM, where it will be considered, finalized, and voted upon.

Next Meeting Date August 25, 2023 – July meeting is cancelled

- M. Breslow moved to end the meeting and S. Dein seconded. Unanimous vote by show of hands.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead